

Contact: Jack O. Kearbey (573) 364-2088 Ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$48,598 TO ASSIST WITH FARMER'S MARKET EXPANSION

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, hosted an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Certificate and a mock check presentation on November 18, 2010 at the Farmer's Market Pavilion in Salem, Missouri. Salem Area Community Betterment received \$48,598 through two grant requests to fund the projects. The Farmer's Market expansion project was funded through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (\$27,000) program with funds coming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The second request was funded through the Community Facility Grant (\$21,598) program to assist with the paving of the parking lot located at the Farmer's Market Pavilion, Teachers Closet, and the Resource Center.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on February 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

Dunning said "Funding important projects like these improvements for the Farmer's Market in Salem mirrors President Obama's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities. Appreciation is also extended to our Federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

Ray Walden, Salem Area Community Betterment Board Member said "Increasing the capacity of our Farmers' Market and improving the nearby parking lot will benefit our local producers, consumers, and community at large. We're grateful for the opportunity to work with USDA Rural Development on these projects."



Included in the photo are Megan Hammer, representative of Senator McCaskill; Sharon Tubbs, Salem Economic Development Director; Ray Walden, Past President for Salem Area Community Betterment, Janie Dunning, Rural Development Missouri State Director, Judy Epperson, Secretary of Salem Area Community Betterment and Gary Nash, President of Salem Area Community Betterment.

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Jack O. Kearbey, Area Specialist, at the Rolla Sub-Area Office of USDA Rural Development at 1050 Highway 72 East, Rolla, MO 65401 or by calling (573) 364-2088 Ext. 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).